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THE CASE OF THE

Undertakers and Promoters of the Bill for the *Courts of Conſcience* for the Borough of *Southwark*, the City and Liberties of *Weſtminſter*, the *Tower Hamlets*, and the remaining Out-Pariſhes of the County of *Middleſex* within the Weekly Bills of Mortality.

THat Mr. *Thomas Pretyman* with others, have been for ſeveral Years laſt paſt concerned in endeavouring to obtain an Act for Erecting a *Court of Conſcience* for the ſeveral places above-mentioned, and have Expended great Sums of Money, beſides loſs of Time, and great Attendance in carrying on the ſame; And in order to the Accompliſhing thereof, in the Year 1685, did bring in a Bill to the then Parliament to that effect, and after the firſt Reading did pay their full Fees (as by Acquittance will appear) in order to a ſecond Reading; but by the ſudden Adjournment, and afterwards Prorogation and Diſſolution of the ſaid Parliament, it could take no effect, to the great damage of the ſaid Undertakers, who now upon a freſh Encouragement, and at the Requeſt of ſeveral of the Inhabitants of the Borough of *Southwark*, and others of the County of *Middleſex*, as likewiſe of ſeveral poor Priſoners that have lain long in Priſons for ſmall Debts under Forty Shillings (as by their ſeveral Petitions to this Honourable Houſe may appear) have brought in a ſecond Bill to the ſame purpoſe, and after the firſt Reading paid in their full Fees in order to a ſecond Reading, which is ſince done, and the Bill referred to a Committee, where they have likewiſe continually attended, and paid all Adjournment Fees, and all other Expences whatſoever to this day.

That the Bill being now likely to take effect, there are ſeveral Perſons (unknown to the Undertakers) Petitioning, and making their Applications to have their Names inſerted as Clerks and Regiſters of the reſpective Diviſions, though they have never been at one Penny expence, nor taken the leaſt pains in the Management of it.

The Undertakers therefore do humbly refer themſelves to the Honour and Juſtice of this *Honourable Houſe*, where they cannot but hope, as a Recompence of their Trouble and great Charge, and an Encouragement to others to undertake things of the like nature for the Publick Good, they ſhall have the benefit of having their Names inſerted in the ſeveral Diviſions as Regiſters and Clerks, with the Powers thereunto belonging, preferable to any others, ſo long as they ſhall behave themſelves well in their reſpective Places and Employments.